

This is your invite to be a Dance Expressions competition soloist

Competition Dancer Policies 2022-2023

TO BE READ BY PARENT & STUDENT

This invite is for one solo unless indicated, if we feel you can handle two solos later you will be notified. Several staff members have selected all soloists, duets, trios based on several criteria such as ability, work ethic, flexibility, showmanship, memory, technique, dedication, attitude of the dancer & positive support by the dancer's family.

THESE POLICIES ARE IN EFFECT AS A DANCE EXPRESSIONS SOLOIST/DUET OR TRIO MEMBER.

Our competition cast members are traditionally on one of our teams. A team commitment improves your technique and performance value that in turn enhances your solo/duet/trio. A competition cast member must be enrolled at Dance Expressions in classical ballet all year long (w/good attendance). If you take ballet with Dayton Ballet, South Dayton Ballet or DCDC in the summer that is not discouraged but must also be enrolled with Dance Expressions. If you miss a ballet class, you must make that class up in order to keep your soloist status. An additional dance class is also required for the full dance year whether it is the team class or jazz, lyrical or contemporary and again good attendance is a must or probation will be a possibility. All soloists must use one of our recommended present or past choreographers unless cleared with Director. If you have received this informational packet, then your teachers see great potential in YOU as a competition performer. A solo is a great adventure, one that will help improve self-discipline, time management, and self-esteem while pushing your dance ability to the next level!

***A chosen soloist/duet/trio dancer for one year does not mean this is automatic the next. We do re-evaluate each year. We are looking for dancers that still appreciate this privilege!! We have had a handful of past soloists that become entitled, if that becomes the case, it's time to take a break. Outstanding behavior/leadership/attitude in & out of the studio is a must. Reputation of a soloist reflects your studio & teachers & we want our dancers to learn more than just a dance routine. Also, when looking at all the choreographer puts into a student if the student does not put the same amount or more effort into the experience then the soloist may have to sit out a year. Cancelling or no shows does not make for a great example either. Parents must make an effort to work with choreographer, or choreographer will recommend them not returning the following year.*

The above paragraph must be read by the dancer & parent.

All soloists MUST compete their Dance Expressions solo/s at: at least two fall offered contests & at least two 2023 studio events offered.

All duet/trios must compete at least one fall contest and **all** assigned studio events.

That is the reason we created trio/ groups, to represent the studio & to be a competitive force in the studio circuits. If you cannot commit to this expectation, then we will need to offer your spot to another dancer.

~Music – Music/vision/theme, will be decided on by the choreographer. You may make suggestions to your teacher, but they know you and they have experience in what music is overused and what tempo/style suits you and your division best. Giving them a hard time will not be acceptable as the choreographer has the experience. If a parent replies “she doesn't really love that” you have to understand that they know best & you will most likely be using that song. It's just not up to mom and daughter. Please hear the vision out & support. An 8-year-old will not be doing choreo to a break-up song or any song that is out of their realm of understanding. No lyrical routines unless the dancer is in at least Ballet IV.

~Choreography – Due to the great number of students doing solos, choreographers will do their very best to create brand new choreography for each soloist. There are no guarantees that a move will not be used in more than one routine. Keep in mind that we all come from the same studio. We have our own style, and everyone should be proud of that! Just remember that the choreographers choreograph a routine to best feature and highlight the strengths of the soloist! Choreography is not to be changed by the student or parent. Please do not ask to use a move you just saw in your teammate's routine.

- Routines will begin in the summer -not necessarily the 1st day of summer vacation but definitely completed by end of September. Choreographers will make a game plan & every teacher is different. No panic if you start in August.

~Costume - Choreographer will have a vision. Please do not make suggestions. Choreographer will set up a time for you to see their thoughts after the costume books arrive or when they find an idea online. Costumes need to be chosen quickly & usually the deadline is mid-September. You will be billed for your costume on October 1st & paid by the 15th or a late will apply. Dancer will not receive costume until payment is made. Your choreographer may have your costume made & if so, fabric hunting and ordering of crystals may be required by parent & it might be pricey. Borrowing may also be suggested if the vision matches a previous costume worn by a soloist or class. Ordering on your own (discount dance supply etc) you do take a risk that someone else will have same pieces. Must have director approval before ordering.

~Leveling – for studio contests leveling will be completely up to Ms. Lori & a few veteran teachers. The level of your child will be determined by a few things but going forward it will be based on where they *should* be, not where they are at now. If you have a dancer in year 5-6, they should not be in level 1. When a parent tries to talk us back down to a level we have to say....”at this point they need pushed, it's up to them to grow, put the work in, stay consistent” etc. Winning the level is not

the ultimate goal, it's dancing to their full potential. If we hear parent rumblings/gossip, the dancer goes on immediate probation because it's just not up for discussion.

~Gown (for solo pageant participants)– All formal gowns must be chosen by mid Dec. Remember that there is no need to spend hundreds of dollars on a dress! Borrowing is always a great option! Gown must be age appropriate! Choreographer and/or Lori MUST approve & will not hesitate at all to have you choose another gown! You send pic to your choreographer, and they share it with our group chat, whoever sends first has dibs. We cannot have 4 royal blue dresses in the same level and division, you will not be memorable. We will be firm on this. We also need to approve shoes and jewelry.

~Choreographer or Ms. Lori has the final say in everything! Music, costumes, dance shoes and gowns all need to be approved. If you are representing our dance studio you want to put together the best overall package. Teachers have the experience with this so please trust your teachers. Ms. Lori will place new soloists with the best possible fit in a choreographer. In order to do two solos, you must receive an invite. Much is considered with this privilege but mainly work ethic and balancing group routines with your solo.

Choreographers include; Ms. Lori, Miss Sarah, Ms. Amy J, Miss Amy K., Miss Emily, Ms. Mary, Ms. Lauren D., Miss Torre, Ms. Megan, Miss Taryn, Miss Heather, Miss Haleigh, Miss Anna, Miss Brianne, Miss Jenna, & Miss Kiki.

Some choreographers might be sought out for certain soloists in order to try out their choreo for a possible future group routine hire. They might be out of state or Dance Exp alumni or members of OSU or UC dance teams or from Planet Dance in Cincy.

Some choreographers will have mentors that assist in cleaning etc

Some of the teams teens are not employed by Dance Expressions so please check in with Lori first before asking them for a private lesson. You cannot just ask anyone.

A soloist is not limited to working w/only one choreographer; you can seek other studio teachers/student teachers to clean your routines.

Solo payment breakdown ~\$375.00 or \$400.00

*\$150 (21 & under) \$175.00 (22 & older)-> will go from Dance Expressions to choreographer for vision, choreography, music selection/cutting & 2 hours of instruction, costume selection or design etc

*70.00 -> will go to Dance Expressions for studio rental during initial instruction, music editing, future editing/speed changes/registration & edits for all studio contests & other administration duties.

* \$155.00 -> required full cast participation at specific studio circuit contest X 1 deposit.

This lump sum MUST be paid to your choreographer at your FIRST lesson & your choreographer will write you a receipt, please keep. Do **not** pay now and do **not** pay the desk and do **not** mail. Cannot be paid in partial payments. Again, please budget & plan for this to occur mid-summer.

Trio payment breakdown per individual~ \$375.00 (\$150.00 trio fee & \$225.00 seed money for your portion of 3 studio contests paid in full) your trio fee will cover 3 days of 2-hour lessons which includes a very small studio rental usage fee as always. Duet fee's ~Lori will contact you. Seed money=This means once this is paid this summer you do not owe for ANY studio contests. You are automatically registered for all 3 aka no more money due all year with the exception of cleaning private lessons. <helpful hint> Stay on top of the choreography and technique and you won't need a ton of these since you are a select group. All duet/trios must COMMIT to working on own, understanding that extra time will be a must on occasion & you cannot make it difficult when scheduling or we will have to replace you in the trio.

****While judging for NEXSTAR I've talked shop with phenomenal artistic directors all over the country ...The average those other dancers pay JUST for initial solo is \$600.00, costuming usually a set fee of anywhere from \$200.00 to 300.00 plus stones, several required conventions, all expenses paid for up to 3 instructors on site at every contest. We by far are the cheapest with a SOLID product. Other studios fly well-known choreographers in with all expenses paid BY the student's family and we are finding ourselves ranking higher than they do at contests on occasion. I'm extremely proud of that fact. Ms. Lori will guide each choreographer to make sure each student is receiving the best possible experience. Under special circumstances we might try an outside choreographer. During the upcoming summer choreographer meeting several guidelines will be set for the staff.*

*****Years ago, we started the seed money/deposit for 1 contest fee. This will go into your account & come out in December when we start to pay for our studio contests. By Oct. 1st I will have the 2-3 studio circuit opportunities/dates/costs for 2023. I will let you know the specific contest that is a must (KAR this past season) & this is where your seed money will go. You will need to do one other required studio contest, but you can choose between the other options. The 3rd or even 4th is obviously optional. You must register at the desk on Tuesday's when given a deadline. At this time, you must submit payment (\$145.00) unless it's the seed money contest. No refunds or transfers. ~ Most studios require full payment by Nov. 1st for all contests (solo/trio/group) & you compete in all of them offered. That is a small fortune due at once. I'm trying to spread out all dance & team fees. Dance Expressions cannot pay ahead for you. The \$ is due when it's due, the studio cannot pay \$2500.00 without all \$ collected. Showcase contests are approx. \$75.00 a piece and for those you register yourself. More details during the summer that will help you prepare for the season.**

We can offer any fundraiser at any time if any parents want to head up! I'm open to anything that will earn the dancer money.

~ duet/trio annual gift card Nov/Dec sale will continue (one dancer made \$350.00) If not enough duet/trios Ms. Lori tags in one other group to participate.

~Big ol' Feb/Mar 50/50 will continue for all (some dancers made between \$300.00-\$400.00)

Additional Studio Time: To be paid at time of session with private lesson form!

1-hour w/choreographer cleaning routine & making any tweaks and adjustments...

\$45.00 60 minutes, \$37.00 45 minutes, \$30.00 30 minutes

<certain choreographers private lesson fees are different, slightly higher>

*1-hour w/ choreographer outside of studio (gym or stage or house) – choreographer decision

*1 hour - \$25.00 studio rental (session can be shared, with ONE other dancer) no choreographer in attendance

We have a private lesson folder on the desk for payments without a teacher, do not throw on the desk. Please NO payments for tuition or team to be randomly left on desk at any time during the year. VENMO needs to be cancelled for lessons starting 5/1/2022, I apologize. It's too chaotic with Venmo being used for tuition. Please pay by check in the new season for any lessons you have with your choreographer AT the time you have them. If you don't pay, the choreographer doesn't get paid. Please don't make the individual choreographers chase payments. It's due at the time of service or a \$15.00 late fee will apply. I have to make things simpler for all involved.

**It's up to you to remember routines, clean routines and listen to judges' critique. Choreographer will also listen to the critique! Those that don't do this will NOT improve, it's not an option, you must listen to and be able to tell us what the judges said.

**Choreographer will alter price due to what is being done during session. A 1-hour session is not required. Choreographer may set up only 30-minute etc. sessions. Choreography changes through out year, esp. once we start competing. Your choreographer will always be watching for ways to improve your routine & your performance. It's their name; it's the studio name, they'll see it through. If they do not please contact me. We will set up a mentor & mentor will make tweaks, or another choreographer can do this for you too.

**Choreographer may set up times with you for cleaning sessions or you may contact your choreographer. You do not have to work with your teacher every single time they offer but you must be prepared for your first preliminary contest, or the choreographer will make a recommendation that you should not attend.

**Use a variety of teachers, student teachers/choreographers to clean. The more eyes the better!

Additional information:

- Choreographers will walk you through the whole experience and let you, the performer, and the parents know what to expect.
- If you commit to a solo and have a change of heart, partial payment will still have to be made depending on what choreographer has completed... to be decided on by Ms. Lori.
- If team routines suffer, solos will be shut down for a period of time as a group. If individually your child cannot balance team and solo, the solo will be paused. Group routines come first.
- If you were a Dance Expressions soloist the previous season it does not necessarily mean you will be one the next year. It depends on the commitment the family made to working with the choreographer. Those that make it hard on the teacher & do not always have the dancer prepared may not be ready for this dance commitment.
- Congeniality toward your fellow soloists & families is a must. Will not tolerate gossip or put down of any of our students!
- Must remain in good standing with behavior, attendance & studio class fees or will be put on probation as a soloist. I will use seed money toward studio tuition before I pay it toward an event!! I have had to do this several times☹
- DUET/TRIO members hand selected based on compatibility. Additional soloists may be chosen by invite over the next month after team tryouts. Certain individuals may be offered a **2nd solo**. If you are not and it's discussed that others have an advantage, your child will go on probation. Again, some things are not up for parent discussion.

Performance opportunities are as follows: cost based on previous years.

2-3 Showcase America~solo/duet/trio contest options in Nov/Dec @ 75.00 per solo, trio divides the \$75.00. (Seeking other circuits to offer you but some have music ownership rights and that makes it tricky)

Early November - Kids Artistic Revue' convention @\$130.00 or selective dancers at NUVO convention/competition \$275 in Indianapolis plus \$150.00 per solo.

End of January ~ Pageant approx. \$180.00 entry fee (doesn't include hotel/gown etc)

1 studio event per Feb & March & April or May

Showcase Nationals in April ~TBD we may not offer based on 2022 location. Do not register without discussing with Lori.

NEXSTAR or other summer Nationals TBA \$140.00-\$160

*Any other event you are interested in must have approval from Ms. Lori~ again some have music licensing stipulations so we are limited where we can go because we do not conform to a "list" that some circuits have you do.

Being a Dance Expressions soloist is a privilege so please remember regular dance class attendance & a great attitude 24/7 is REQUIRED.

Ballet is year-round (summer & Sept->May) make sure you turn in summer form ASAP; I will not chase. Do not show up the first night of ballet with form, reserve your ballet spot now. Summer payment=night 1 of summer class.

Going on this journey is a big commitment for everyone involved so please give this some thought.

~~~~Please sign & return that you read this in its entirety~~~~  
to the desk **Studio Competition Cast by May 10th.**

Please fill out if you and your family are committed to the excitement of being a studio competition member.

Please sign that you the dancer and family have read the policies and the cast member contract.

Please see Lori for any questions.

Dance NAME (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Dancer signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature \_\_\_\_\_

Family EMAILS \_\_\_\_\_

ALL PHONE #1 \_\_\_\_\_ #2 \_\_\_\_\_ (student cell if applies)

BIRTHDATE (month/day/year) \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_ 2022-2023 GRADE \_\_\_\_\_

I accept my invite & have read & completely understand what is expected of me in order to be a (circle)  
SOLOIST                      DUET/TRIO MEMBER

CHOREOGRAPHER \_\_\_\_\_

*\*You will traditionally have the same choreographer unless we feel someone is a better fit or possibly someone closer to home if you have had a college teacher. Another possible switch will occur if we feel your style is now better suited for a choreographer with a similar style. Lori will contact you if we feel a switch is a possibility.*

*\* Invites to do a second solo will still be limited to only a handful of dancers and be discussed after team auditions and after all group routines are finalized. This could be same or a different choreographer. Remember Team Fees are the priority over a solo lesson or a solo entry and will be emphasized this upcoming season.*

## Dance Expressions Competition Cast Agreement

By signing below, you agree to the following terms:

- I have read the team and/or solo guidelines and understand the costs and payments required to be a member of the Dance Expressions Competition Cast.
- I have read and agree to adhere to the rules involving conduct and behavior including the requirement that each dancer/parent always maintain a positive attitude in all studio classes, lessons, competitions and when representing Dance Expressions at any function.
- I agree that all dancers and parents are expected and required to support and encourage all team members and work together as a team.
- I agree that all dancers must represent the team in a positive manner and that any behavior of the dancer, which reflects negatively on the team, may lead to the immediate dismissal from the team and any group or solo.
- I agree that all dancers and parents will be respectful to all dancers, teachers, and faculty inside and outside of the studio. This includes refraining from negative comments about the studio, teachers, faculty, dancers and/or parents including in person, phone, texts, Internet and all social media sites.
- I agree that all dancers and parents are to respect the professional decisions made by the teachers and staff.
- I agree to abide by the attendance requirements set forth in the attendance policy.
- I agree that all competition, contest, costume, lesson and all fees paid by the dancer/parent are non-refundable once paid by the dancer/parent regardless of whether the dancer participates in any competition or contest and regardless of whether the dancer remains a member of the team/group through the end of the terms of this agreement unless this contract is cancelled in accordance with the terms set forth below.
- I agree and understand that failure of the dancer/parent to follow all team rules, policies and procedures including but not limited to the rules set forth above may result in the dismissal of the dancer from the team and any solo, duo, trio or other group choreographed and/or connected with Dance Expressions. I understand the decision to dismiss a dancer is in the sole discretion of the Director of Dance Expressions.
- I agree that if my child/dancer is dismissed from any team, group or solo or my child voluntarily quits any team, group, or solo (other than by reason of moving more than 25 miles from Dance Expressions, disability, or death) I remain responsible for the remaining ledger/tuition/team fees until the end of the terms of this Agreement.
- If my child can no longer participate by reason of the dancer moving more than 25 miles from Dance Expressions (or if Dance Expressions relocates more than 25 miles from the dancer's residence), disability or death, all prepaid and/or future fees and costs will be proportionally divided and I shall only be responsible for the period of time my child actually participated in the team, group or solo and that any refund necessary under this provision shall be made within 30 days of notice of the reason for cancellation.
- I agree and understand that all decisions regarding participation in competitions, contests, team functions, groups, including all solos, duos, trios and teams, are in the sole discretion of the Director of Senior Expressions.
- As the legal parent or guardian, I release and hold harmless Dance Expressions by Lori Jene, Inc. ("Dance Expressions"), its owners, agents, employees, and all instructors, teachers, choreographers working on behalf of Dance Expressions from any and all liability, claims, demands, and causes of action arising out of or related to any loss, damage or injury that may be sustained by the dancer and/or the undersigned, while in or upon the premises or any premises under the control and supervision of Dance Expressions or in any lesson, meeting, competition, practice for any team, group or solo or in route to or from any such lesson, meeting, competition, practice or the premises of Dance Expressions.
- Dance Expressions, including its owners, agents, and employees, is hereby granted permission to take photographs of the dancers to use in brochures, websites, posters, advertisements and other materials.
- All information and material of a personal or private nature that is acquired directly or indirectly from parent shall be returned to the parent by regular mail within 30 days after the expiration of the contract or after the expiration for any reason of the dancer's participation in the team, group or solo.
- All costuming and accessories/props borrowed from Dance Expressions and/or a staff member must be returned within 7 days of team dismissal and/or end of season.
- I understand that I, the parent/dancer, have the right to cancel this Agreement until midnight of the third business day after acceptance of the dancer on the team, group, or solo. In order to cancel, I understand I must give written notice of cancellation by hand delivery, mail or email to Dance Expressions.
- I agree that this Agreement remains in effect from June 1 of 2022 to May 31, 2023 or until the season concludes after the chosen Nationals summer event.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dance Expressions

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date